

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1897
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2016
Potentiality of Water for Agriculture/ Irrigation
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated potentiality of water for agriculture/irrigation by the year 2025; and
- (b) the measures taken by the Government to overcome the issues keeping the future challenges in mind?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(PROF. SANWAR LAL JAT)

(a) The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) had estimated, that the total water requirement for different purposes for the year 2025 would be about 843 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) including 611 BCM for irrigation.

The average annual water availability for the country has been assessed by Central Water Commission as 1869 billion cubic meters (BCM). However, due to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water has been estimated to be about 1123 BCM, comprising of 690 BCM surface water and 433 BCM of replenishable ground water.

(b) Several measures for meeting the present and future demands of water for different purposes, including irrigation, are undertaken by the respective State Governments which, inter-alia, include conservation of water resources in reservoirs and traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water etc. This Ministry provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments in this regard through various schemes and programmes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, Scheme for Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Water-bodies etc.

Central Government has launched the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in 2015-16 to improve access to irrigation and mitigate risk of farmers by providing assured irrigation. The PMKSY scheme under its various components envisages to enhance the irrigation facilities in an area of 28.5 lakh Hectares from 2015-16 to 2019-20.

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Central Ground Water Board, under this Ministry has prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during the year 2013 envisaging construction of 1.11 crore Rainwater Harvesting and Artificial Recharge structures in the country to harness 85 BCM (Billion Cubic Meters) of water. The augmented ground water resources will enhance the availability of water for drinking, domestic, industrial and irrigation purposes. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.

Water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment ground water constitute a special focus area for MGNREGA works and about 2/3rd of the expenditure is directly related to construction of such structures.

Central Government has launched the National Water Mission with the objective of conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management.

The National Water Policy, 2012 has been formulated, which has made several recommendations for conservation, development and improved management of water resources in the country.

Jal Kranti Abhiyan (2015-16 to 2017-18) has been launched in order to consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement.

Recycle and reuse of water, after treatment to specified standards as well as rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge are being incentivized through various initiatives, programmes/ schemes of the Government.

Improved water use efficiency in different sectors such as in irrigation (through micro-irrigation, e.g., drip, sprinkler etc.), industry and households is being encouraged through various initiatives, programmes/ schemes of the Government.

This Ministry has also formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) envisaging inter-basin transfer of water. The implementation of NPP would give benefits of approximately 35 million hectare of additional irrigation potential and 34000 mega watts (MW) hydro power generation apart from the incidental benefits of flood moderation, navigation, drinking and industrial water supply, fisheries, salinity and pollution control etc.
